



## ***Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency***

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct. 22, 2013

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

*MDHA, Metro Arts Commission Schedule Edmondson Park Groundbreaking*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, in partnership with the Metropolitan Arts Commission, will break ground on Edmondson Park, located on Charlotte Avenue near downtown.

Mayor Karl Dean will speak at the ceremony, as will District 19 Council Member Erica Gilmore, in whose district the park is located, and At-Large Council Member Ronnie Steine.

Adjacent to John Henry Hale Homes and the Youth Opportunity Center, home of Oasis Center, the park is named for William Edmondson (1874-1951), a native of Davidson County. A self-taught artist, Edmondson felt called upon by God to create sculpture and was the first African-American to have a solo show at the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York.

Thanks to the Metro Arts Commission, through the Percent for Art program and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the park will honor Edmondson's legacy with sculptures by African-American artists Lonnie Holley and Thornton Dial, both self-taught African-American artists. The park will also feature fragments of columns from the Tennessee State Capitol and "The Gathering," the iconic sculpture grouping created for Oasis Center in 2001.

A reception in the community room of John Henry Hale Homes will follow the groundbreaking ceremony.

**WHO:** Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency  
Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission

**WHAT:** Groundbreaking for Edmondson Park

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 25, 2013  
2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Edmondson Park site  
1642 Charlotte Avenue (next to Youth Opportunity Center and Oasis Center)

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*The Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency administers a variety of urban and community development projects, works to increase the availability of affordable housing, and leads and supports revitalization efforts in downtown and neighborhoods throughout the city.*